



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	<u>MVK-2017-222</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Kristi Hall</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-7528</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Kristina.W.Hall@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>July 23, 2020</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>August 13, 2020</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A)(93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and / or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Kim Smith
Sierra Frac Sand
1155 East Johnson Street
Tatum, Texas 75691

Name of Agent:
Mr. Lee Womack
Matrix New World Engineering
2798 O'Neal Lane, Building F
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Location of Work: Sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, T21N-R14W, Latitude 32.8002 N and Longitude -93.7926 W, within the Red River Drainage Basin (8-digit HUC 11140202) Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands and waters for the purpose of expanding sand and gravel mining operations at the Cedar Bluff Sand and Gravel Mining Facility. Sand mined at this facility is primarily used for hydraulic fracturing related to oil and gas exploration in the states of Louisiana and Texas. The existing mine is 857 acres and was authorized in 2017. The new standard permit application would encompass all work conducted at the mine and include an additional 245 acres of dredging in the main channel of the Red River. The current application would reduce the footprint of open pit mining from 550 acres to 278 acres. The processing facility is located along the high bank of the Red River at an elevation of approximately 190 to 200 feet, the mine pit and wet processing facilities are located at an elevation of approximately 170 to 190 feet, and the ordinary high water mark of the Red River in the project area is 173.5 feet. Berms would be constructed around the mine to an elevation of 184 feet. Section 10 limits of the Red River have been expanded from approximately 40.0 acres within the footprint of the mine to 106.4 acres within the footprint of the mine. Construction of access roads and the levee system have filled 15.7 acres of Section 10 waters.

The current application proposes to dredge sand from the OHWM of the Red River with a suction dredge to a depth of 20 feet, for approximately 3.5 miles (centered near river mile 255) at a maximum width of 1,467 feet. Dredged material would be pumped to dredge discharge cells located along the left descending bank of the Red River. Three of these discharge cells are located within leveed mine areas, four discharge cells are along the high bank of the Red River. These cells would be surrounded by a 25 foot wide by 15 foot high berm to allow for setting of dredge material. Three pairs of two 18-inch helical pilings would be used for mooring the dredge vessel in the Red River, dredging operations would also be assisted by heavy equipment located on the river bank. Dredging activities are proposed to occur perpendicular to the river flow. An 18-inch discharge pipe would be laid along the toe of the riverside of the berm to transport dredged material into discharge cells. Approximately four million cubic yards per year of material is proposed to be dredged from the Red River and processed at the facility.

The vegetative communities within the footprint of the mine have been previously disturbed and are either barren ground or open water.

No additional impacts to wetlands or streams is proposed with the current proposal, and therefore no compensatory mitigation would be required.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, state lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: No potential to cause effect, the permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

Endangered Species: Based on the Information and Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana Agreement dated January 13, 2020 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on the following species: Red-cockaded woodpecker, earth fruit, and northern long-eared bat. The project may affect the Interior least tern, further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted as part of the permit review process.

Floodplain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project is located within the 100 year floodplain.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use

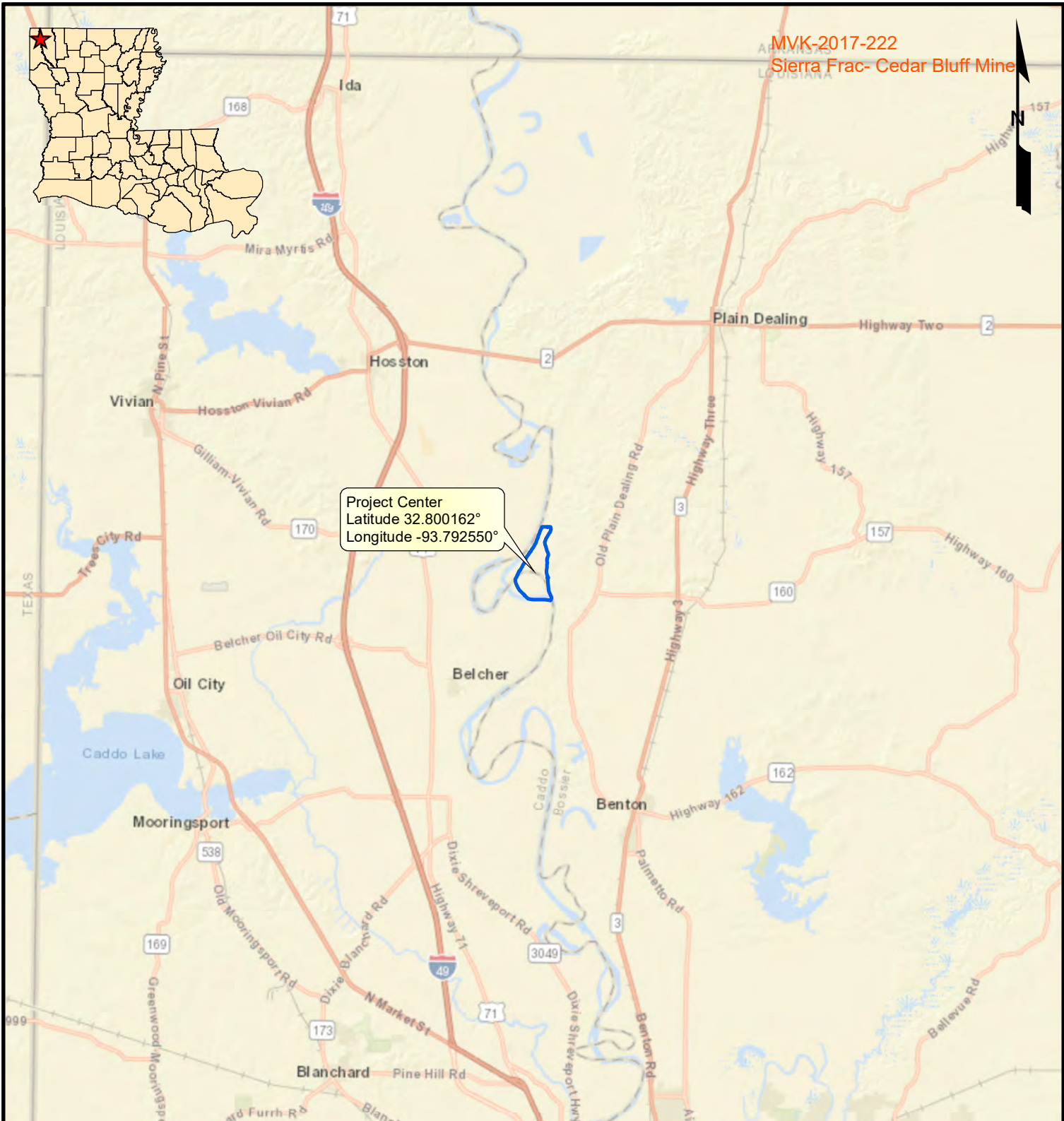
classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.


Thomas A. McCabe
Thomas A. McCabe
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch



MVK-2017-222
Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine

Project Center
Latitude 32.800162°
Longitude -93.792550°

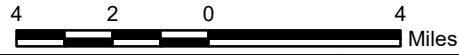
Legend

 Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)

Vicinity Map

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC
Cedar Bluff Tract



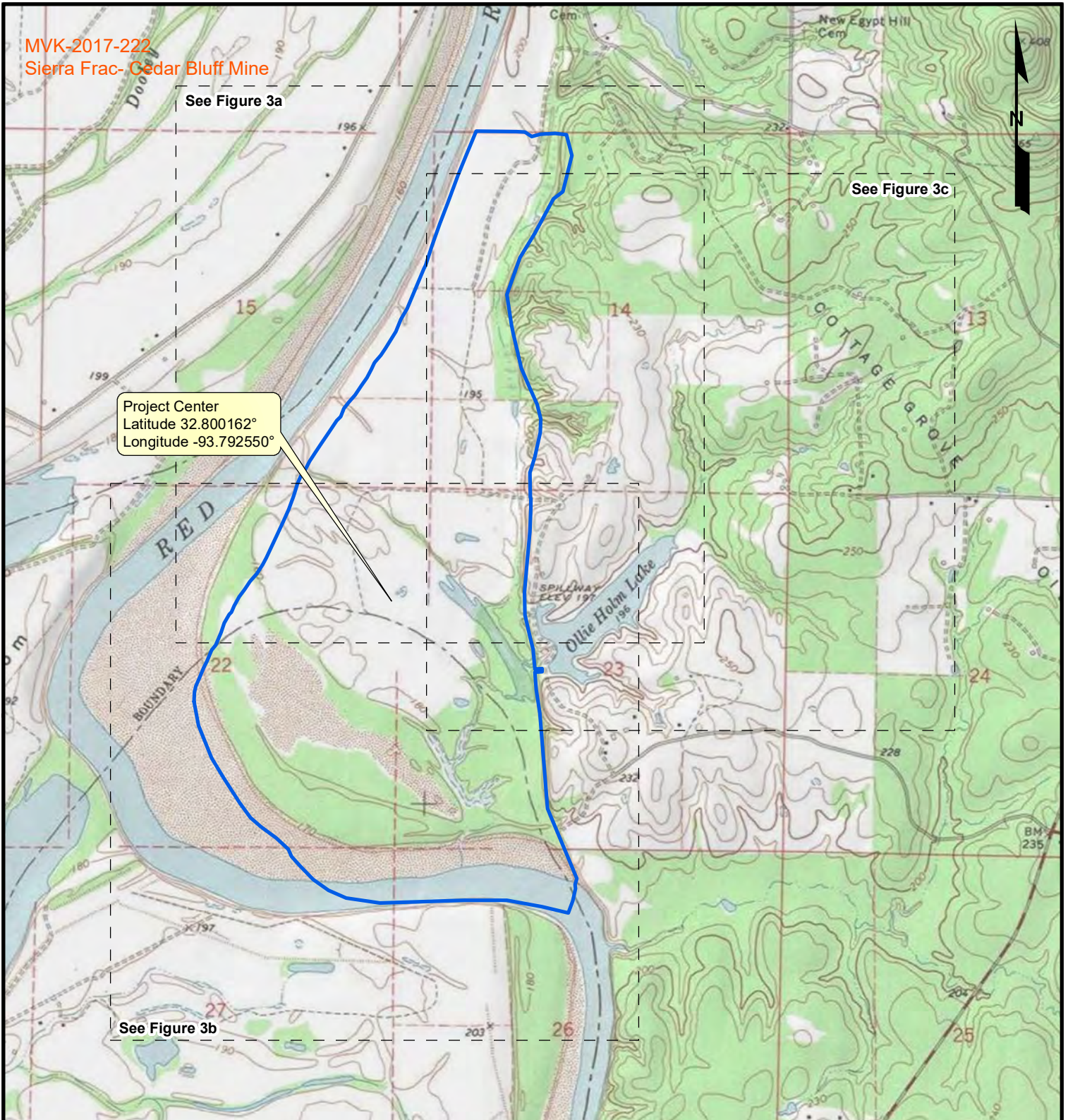
MATRIXNEWORLD
Engineering Progress

Drawn By	CET
Approved By	LAW
Date	6/12/2020
Drawing No.	19-489-A037

1
Figure No.

Source: Base map comprised of ESRI StreetMap USA data.

MVK-2017-222
Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine



Project Center
Latitude 32.800162°
Longitude -93.792550°

Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Site Plan Index

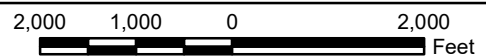
Source: Base map comprised of U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map, "Gilliam, LA" dated 1971.

Site Location Map

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

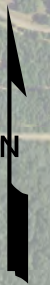
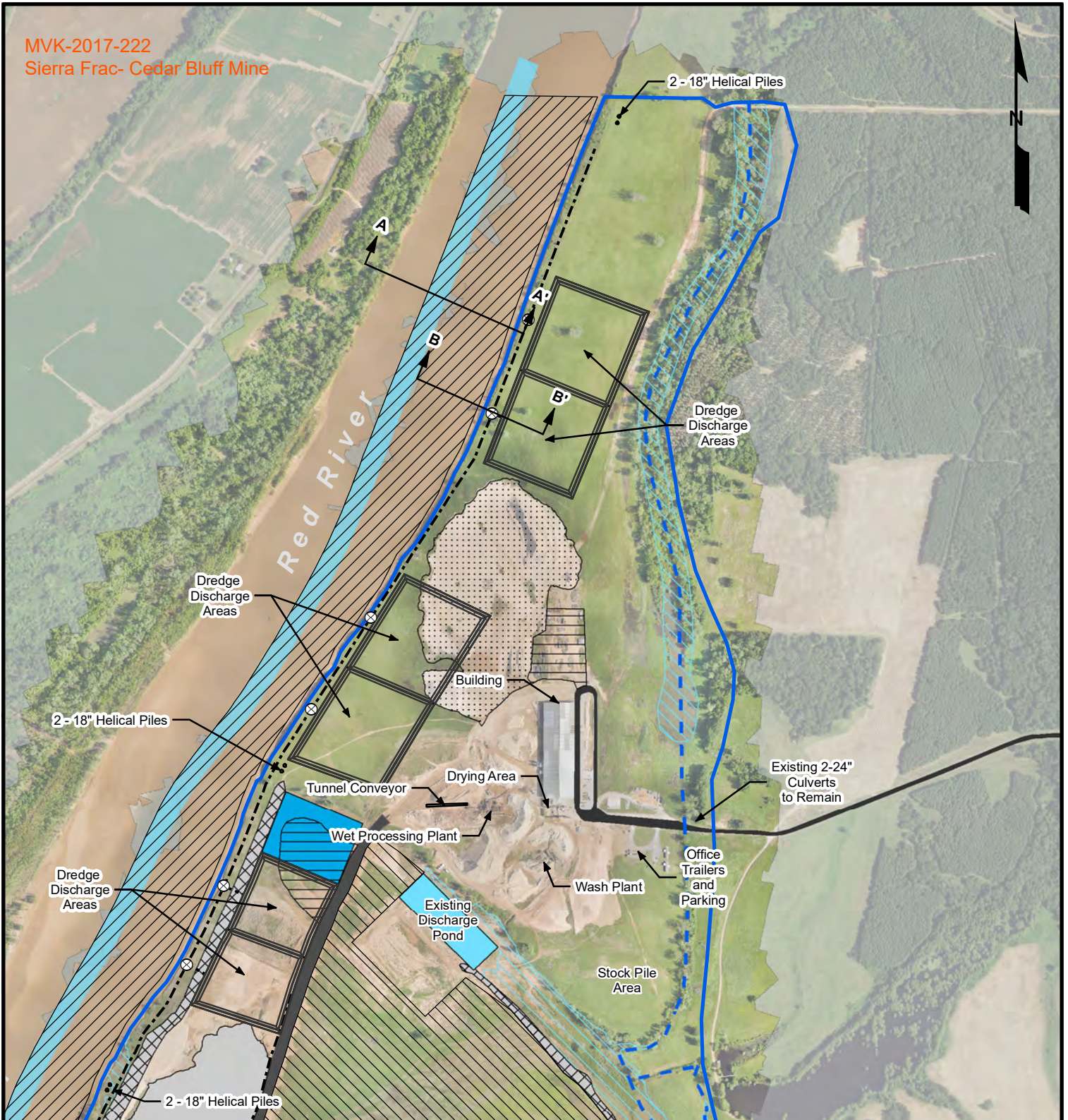


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Approved By	LAW
Date	6/12/2020
Drawing No.	19-489-A038

2

Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Proposed River Dredging Area (244.86 acres; 18,995.16' L x 1,467' Max Width)
- Proposed Discharge Pond (6.72 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- 18" Discharge Piping (15,934.97 linear feet)
- Valve
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (177.02 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet)
- Red River Mean Low Water
- Existing Red River Revetment
- Existing Access Road (5.14 acres)
- Existing Discharge Pond (4.45 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (9.84 acres)
- Existing Laydown Area (10.67 acres)
- Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres)

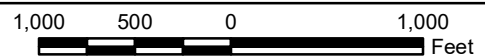
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

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Date	6/16/2020
Drawing No.	19-489-A039

3a
Figure No.

MVK-2017-222

Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine

Dredge Discharge Areas

Wet Processing Plant

Wash Plant

Office Trailers and Parking

Existing Discharge Pond

Stock Pile Area

Red River

2 - 18" Helical Piles

Cedar Bluff Rd.

C

C'

E


















E'

D

D'

2 - 18" Helical Piles

Legend

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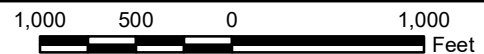
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

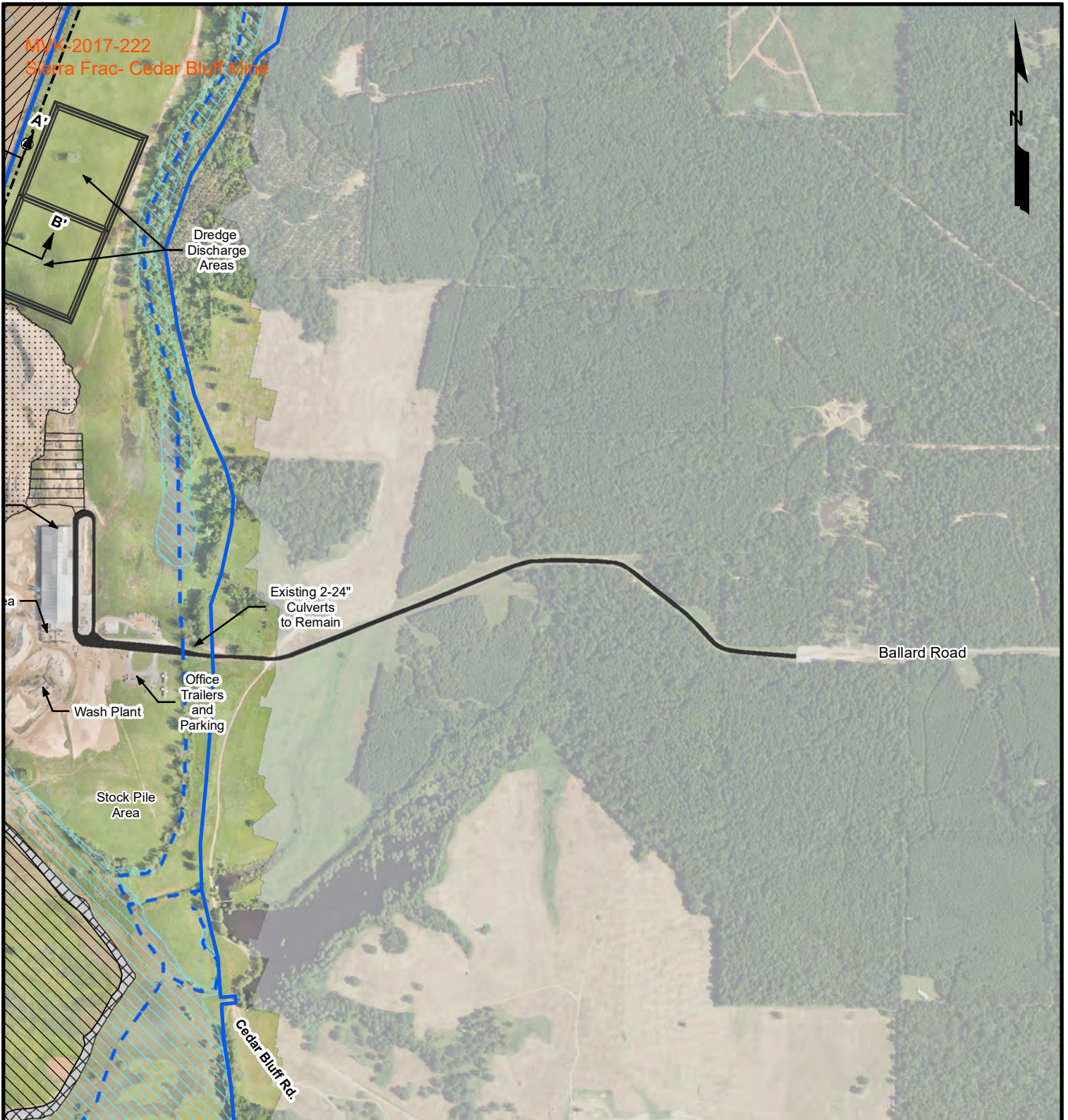
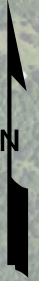


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Engineering Progress

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Date	6/16/2020
Drawing No.	19-489-A039

3b
Figure No.

MYK-2017-222
Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine



Legend

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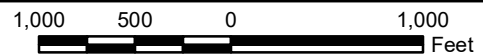
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

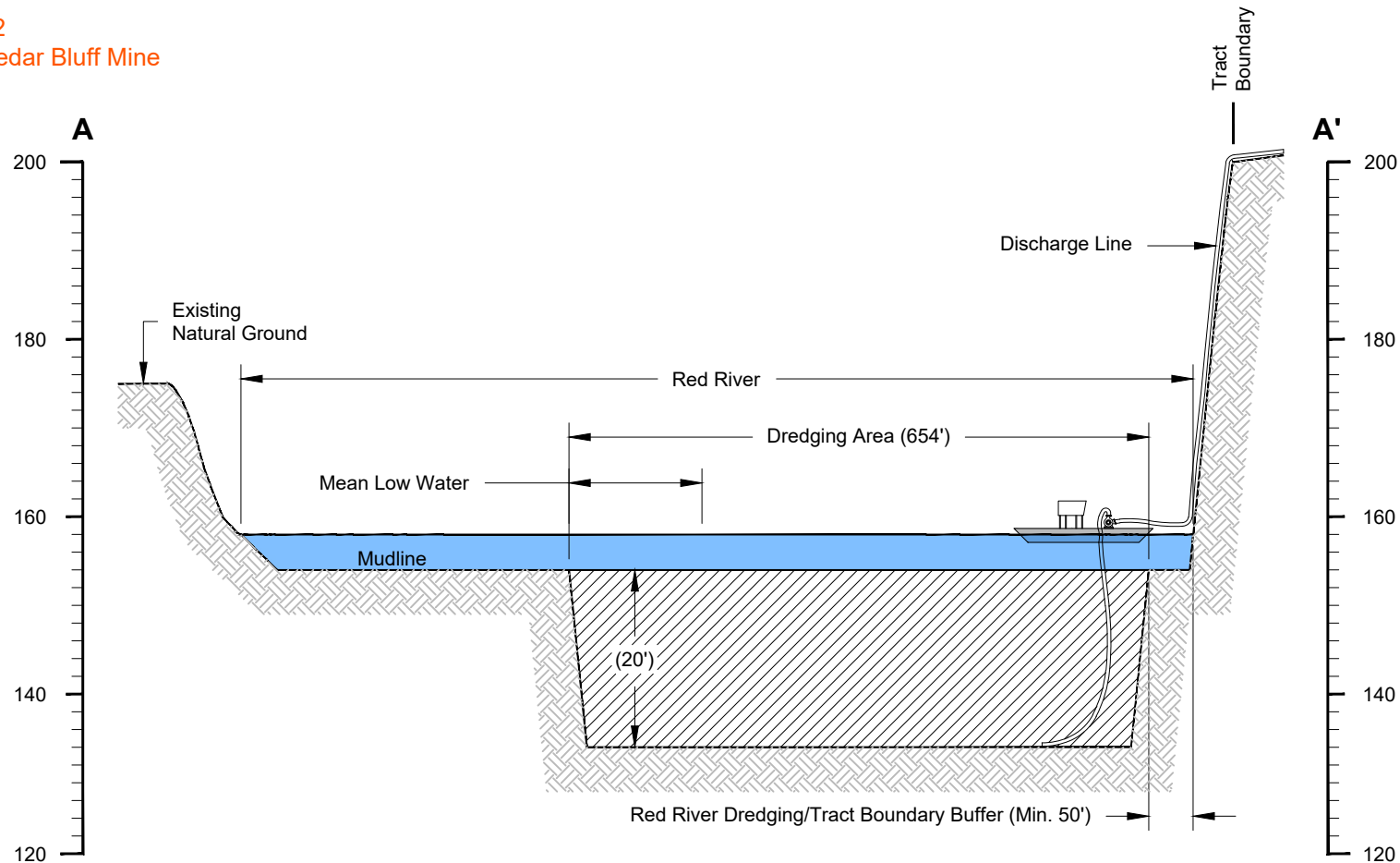
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

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Date	6/16/2020
Drawing No.	19-489-A039

3c
Figure No.



Cross Section A-A'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 200'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Note

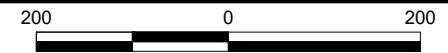
Mean low water data obtained from client survey file named: "red_mlml.dwg", provided on 04/23/2020.

Cross Section A-A'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



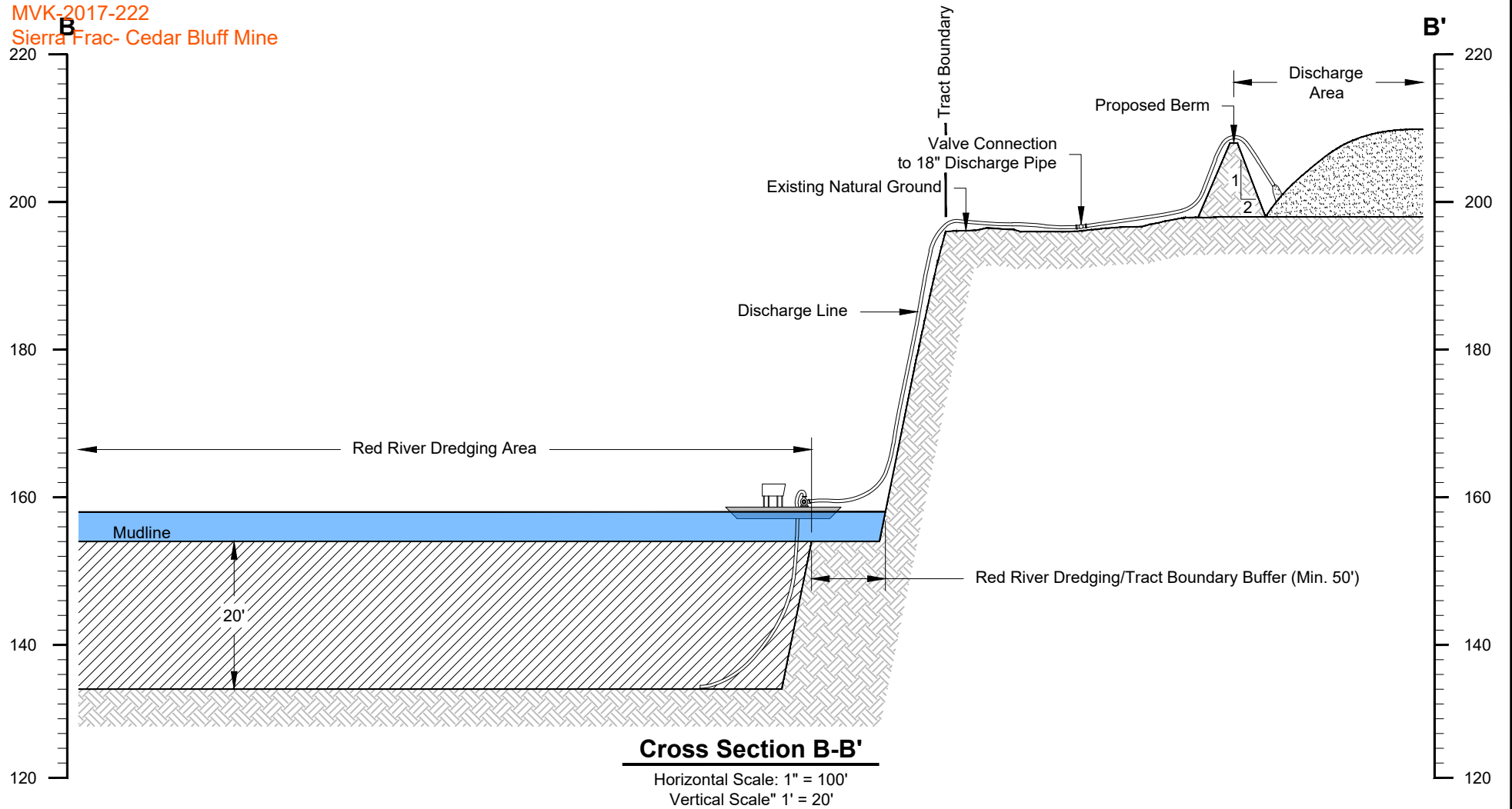
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Approved By	CET
Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A031

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Figure No.

MVK-2017-222
Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine



Cross Section B-B'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



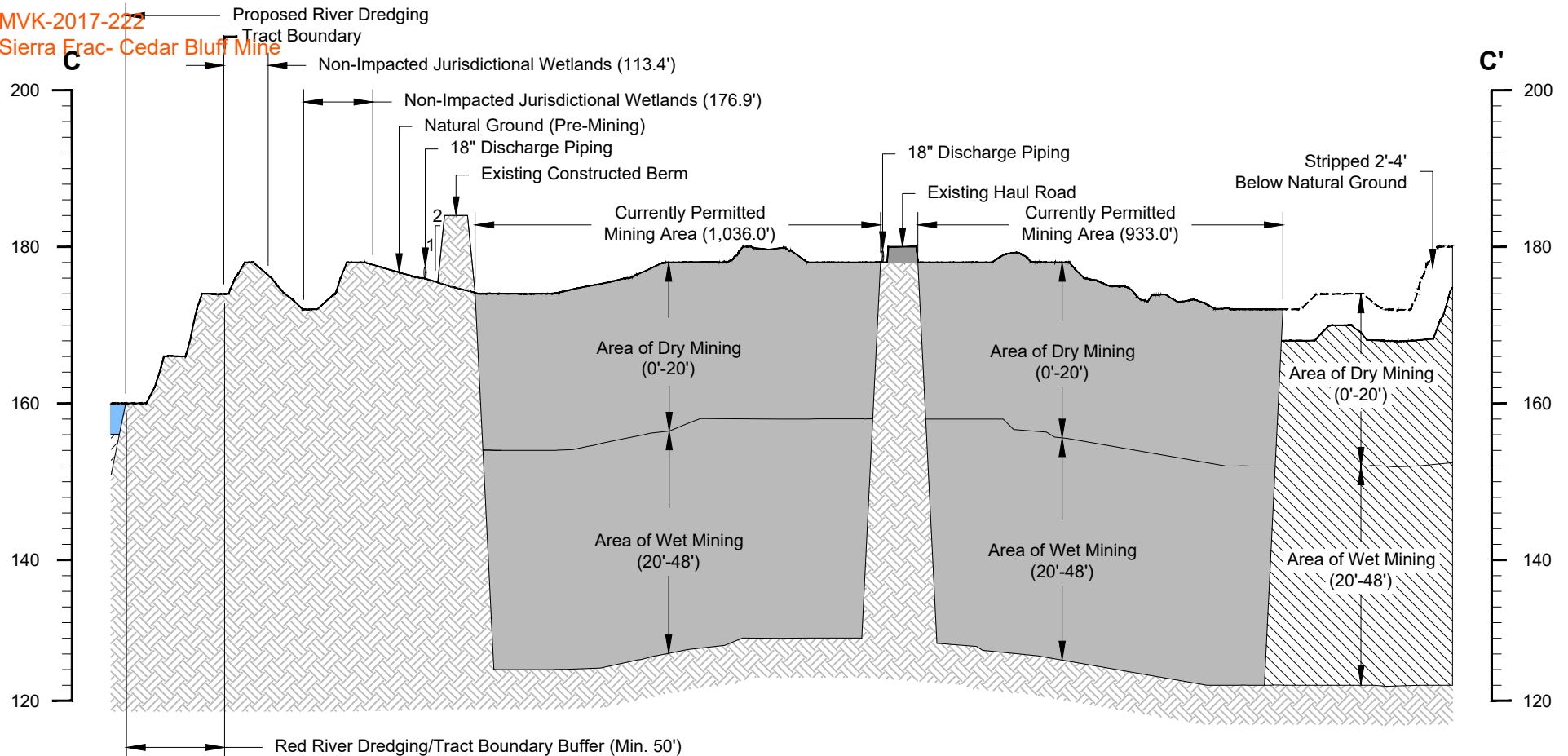
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Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	CET
Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A032

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Figure No.

MVK-2017-222
 Sierra Frac- Cedar Bluff Mine



Cross Section C-C'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 400'
 Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Legend

Currently Permitted Stripped Area to be Mined

Cross Section C-C'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

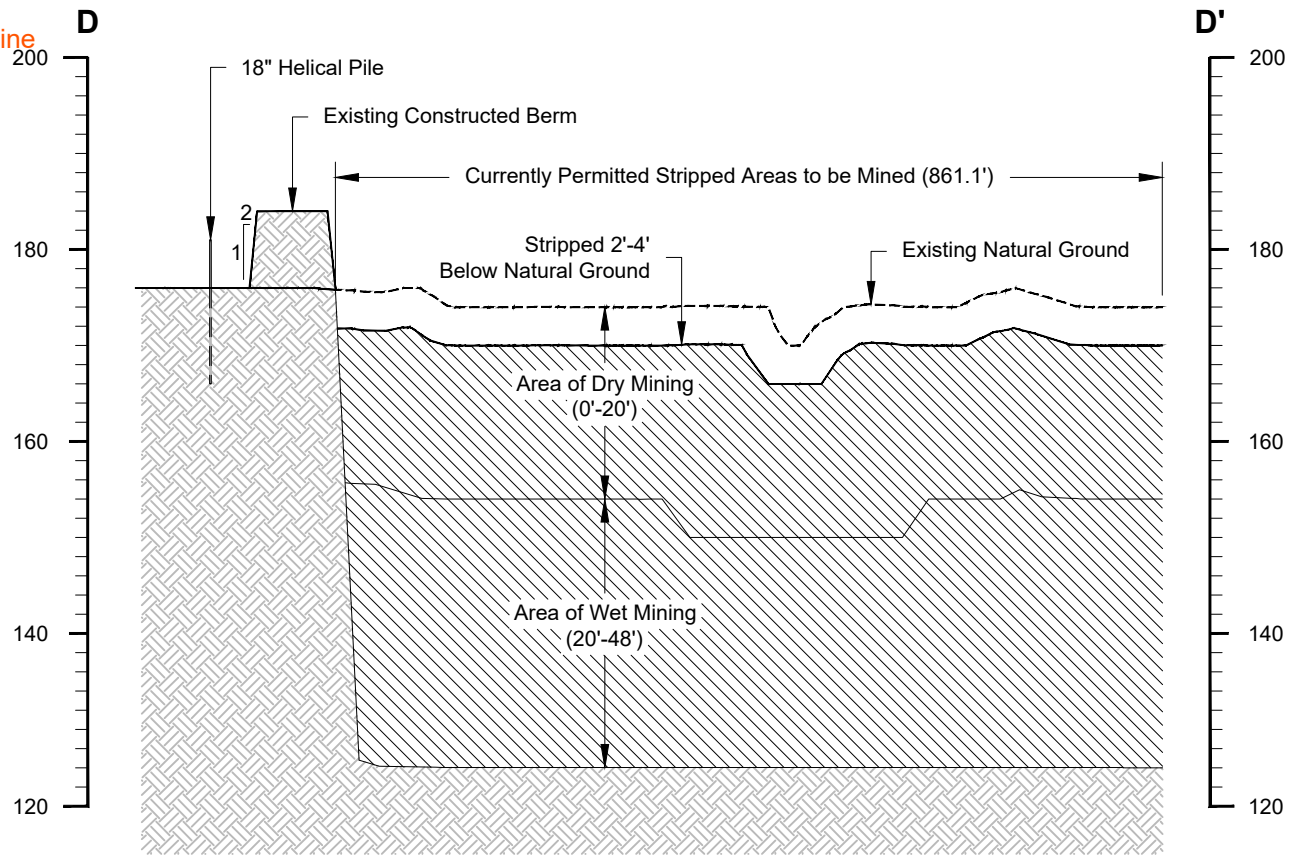


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 Engineering Progress

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Approved By	CET
Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A033

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Figure No.



Cross Section D-D'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 200'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Cross Section D-D'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

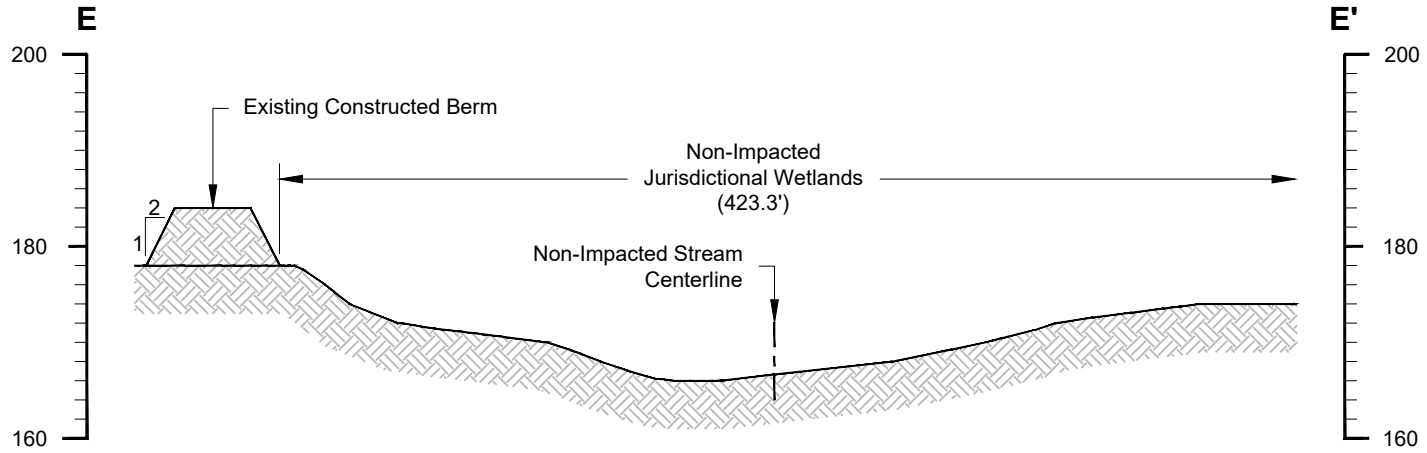


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Engineering Progress

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Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A034

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Figure No.



Cross Section E-E'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 80'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Cross Section E-E'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

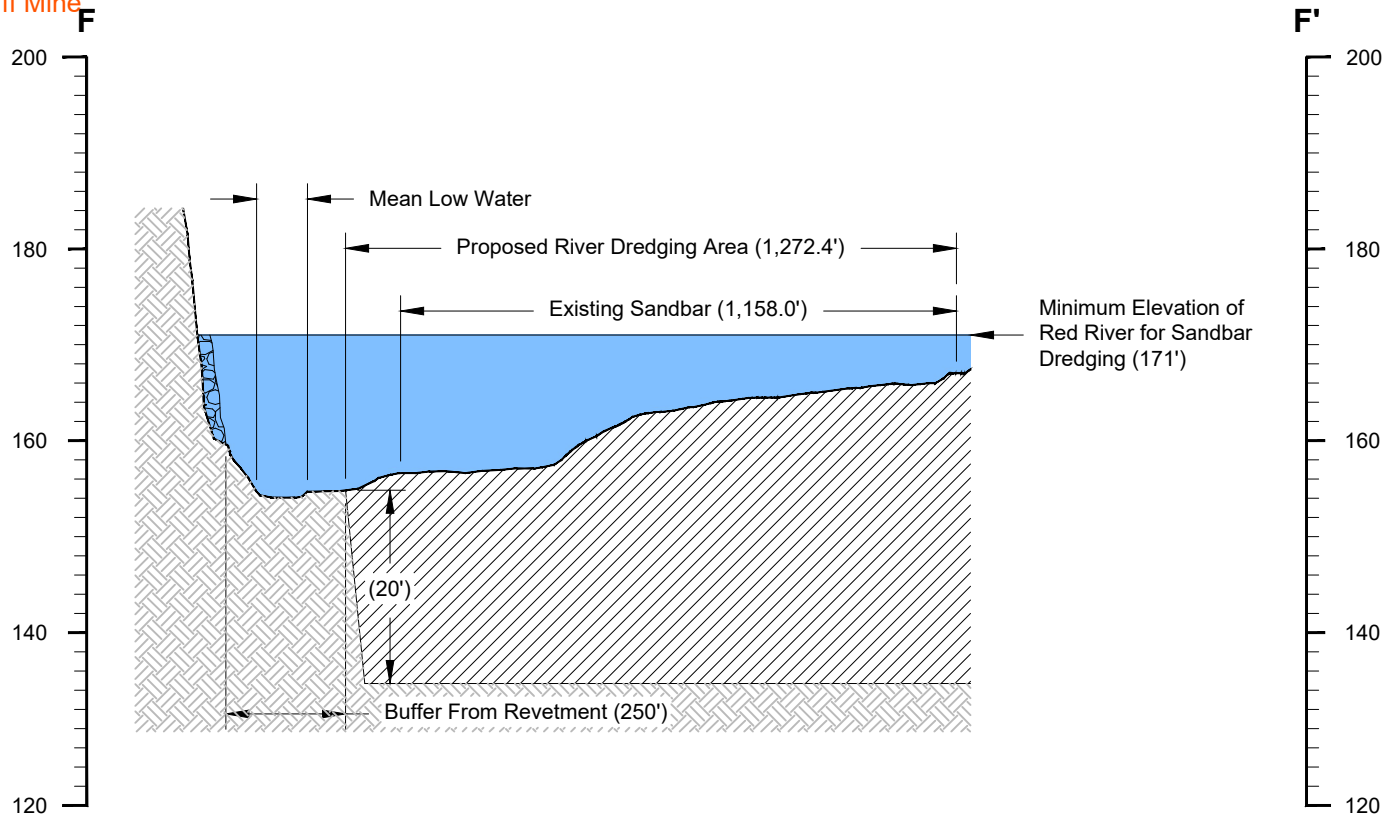


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Drawn By	LMM
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Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A035

8

Figure No.



Cross Section F-F'

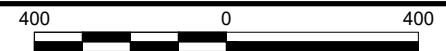
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Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Cross Section F-F'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

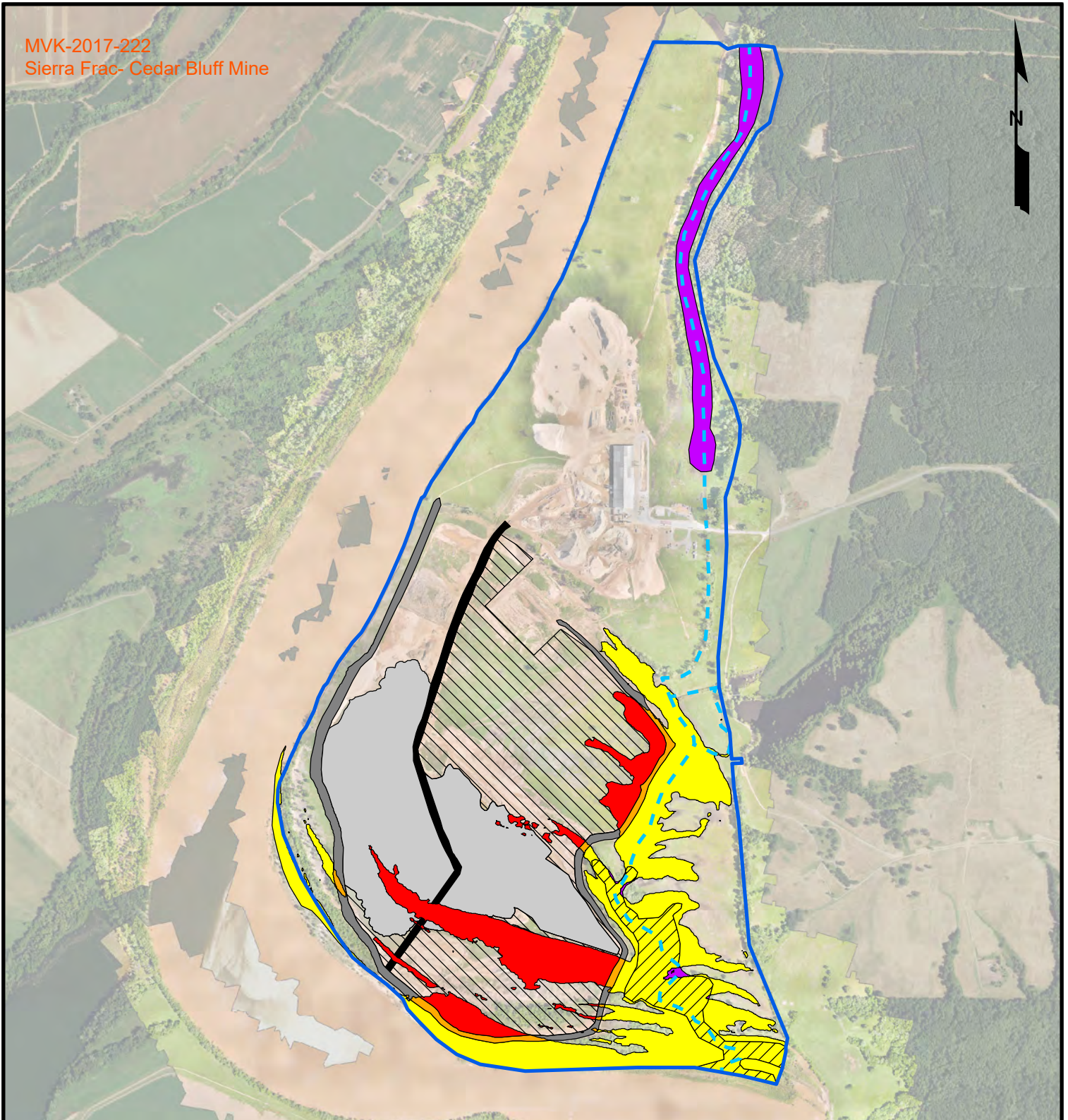
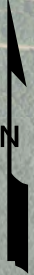


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Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	CET
Date	06/11/2020
Drawing No	19-489-A036

9

Figure No.



Legend

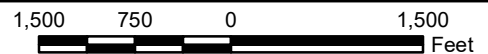
- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (9.84 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet)
- Impacted Section 10 Waters (Excavation; 39.89 acres)
- Impacted Section 10 Waters (Fill; 5.85 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 10 Waters (81.06 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 10/404 Wetlands (24.79 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 404 Wetlands (21.58 acres)

Previously Permitted Section 10 Areas

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

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Drawing No.	19-489-A040

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Figure No.

Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.